

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EC, EI

SUBJ: IRISH COMMISSIONER FORESEES CRISIS OF NATIONALISM IN EC

SUMMARY: IN NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW, HILLERY SUGGESTS EC
APPROACHING "CRISIS," WHICH WILL FROCE DECISION BETWEEN
REAL EUROPEAN UNION AND A EUROPE IN WHICH NATIONALISM
WILL CONTINUE PREDOMINANT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN NOV 13 "IRISH TIMES," PATRICK HILLERY, IRISH EC
COMMISSIONER FOR SOCIAL POLICY, IS QUOTED AS SAYING:
"WE'RE COMING NEAR THE CRISIS WHERE SOMEONE IS GOING TO
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SAY, 'DO WE GO ON OR DO WE GIVE IT UP'....THE GERMANS

WHO ARE PAYING FOR SO MUCH OF WHAT IS GOING ON, THEY MUST SOON WANT TO SEE SOMETHING OF WHAT THEY WANT OUT OF EUROPE, AND THEY WANT A FURTHER STEP TOWARDS SOLIDARITY. THEY DON'T MIND PAYING FOR UNION, BUT THEY DON'T WANT TO PAY FOR OTHERS TO RUN THEIR OWN NATIONAL AFFAIRS IN THE WAY THEY WANT TO." HILLERY WELCOMES "CRISIS" BECAUSE HE THINKS EUROPE WILL MAKE A DECISION AGAINST NATIONALISM WHEN FORCED TO DO SO.

2. HILLERY BELIEVES MOST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE BECOME MORE STRONGLY NATIONALISTIC THAN IRELAND. IRELAND'S MAIN INTEREST IS TO PRESS HARD FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY, BUT IRELAND IS IN HAPPY POSITION OF BEING ABLE TO PURSUE THIS AIM BY INSISTING ON AN "IDEALISTIC APPROACH TO THE COMMUNITY CONCEPT." IF COMMUNITY ACCEPTS IDEALISTIC APPROACH, IT WILL HAVE TO SPEND SUBSTANTIAL SUMS OF MONEY TO BRING IRELAND UP TO STANDARDS OF OTHER EC MEMBERS.

3. COMMENT: IN THIS REFERENCE TO GERMAN CONCEPT OF EUROPEAN UNION, WE ASSUME HILLERY HAD IN MIND IDEAS EXPRESSED BY BRANDT AND DESCRIBED IN BRUSSEL'S 6463: "THE GOAL OF EUROPEAN UNITY REMAINS A EUROPEAN GOVT WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BE IN CHARGE OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION, SOCIAL POLICIES, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY." GENERAL PUBLIC IN IRELAND WOULD, WE THINK, WORRY ABOUT LOSS OF IRISH IDENTITY IN SUCH A UNION, BUT BOTH MAJOR PARTIES HAVE URGED POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. (HILLERY STILL CARRIES HEAVY WEIGHT IN OPPOSITION FIANNA FAIL.) POLITICAL LEADERS BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE BOTH PRACTICAL AND "IDEALISTIC" REASONS FOR IRELAND TO SUPPORT FULL EUROPEAN UNION. WE CONCLUDE THAT IRELAND WOULD PROBABLY LINE UP BEHIND WHAT HILLERY DESCRIBED AS GERMAN CONCEPT. SORENSON

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